

STATEMENT COMMENDING THE
NAMING OF THE RODERICK P.
PAIGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize our former Secretary of Education, Dr. Rod Paige, on the occasion of the naming of an elementary school in Houston, Texas in his honor. This is certainly a well-deserved honor for Dr. Paige given his years of dedication to educational excellence, and I hope that the dedication will impact a whole new generation of students who may be inspired by all that Dr. Paige has accomplished throughout his career.

On January 21, 2001, the United States Senate confirmed Dr. Roderick Paige as the 7th U.S. Secretary of Education. For Dr. Paige, the son of a principal and a librarian in public schools, that day was the crowning achievement of a long career in education.

Born in 1933 in segregated Monticello, Mississippi, Dr. Paige's accomplishments speak of his commitment to education. He earned a bachelor's degree from Jackson State University in his home state, and went on to earn both a master's and a doctoral degree from Indiana University. Dr. Paige began working with students early in his career as a teacher and a coach. He then went on to serve as Dean of College of Education at Texas Southern University (TSU) for a decade. In this position Dr. Paige worked to ensure that future educators would receive the training and expertise necessary to succeed in the classroom.

In 1989, Dr. Paige was sworn in as a trustee and an officer of the Board of Education of the Houston Independent School District (HISD), in which capacities he served until 1994 when he became superintendent of HISD, the nation's seventh largest school district.

Dr. Paige served as the first African-American Secretary of Education from 2001–2005. During his tenure, Dr. Paige continued his mission to set new standards of educational achievement for all students. Today, Dr. Paige is the Chairman of Chartwell Education Group, an organization he co-founded to improve the quality of education for our nation's school children.

The Roderick Paige Elementary School will be formally dedicated on Friday, May 23, 2008. Dr. Paige's impact on students in Houston and throughout this country will be felt for years to come. I congratulate Dr. Paige on this occasion. This is a fitting honor, and I can think of no greater individual to bestow it upon.

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS
MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1106 which ex-

presses support for designating April 2008 as National Autism Awareness Month.

Autism is a very real issue for many of my constituents whose families have been affected by this condition. I hear about the challenges that these families face at each Congress on Your Corner I host and receive many constituent letters on this issue.

My district is fortunate to house the Melmark New England headquarters. This organization is dedicated to serving children and adolescents with the autism spectrum disorders.

Founded in 1998, Melmark, New England recently celebrated its 10th Anniversary. At a recent visit in celebration of this occasion, I had the opportunity to see first hand the importance of early intervention and proper treatment for those individuals living with autism.

I commend Melmark New England and organizations like it across the country that provide quality treatment to those living with Autism.

My hope is that passage of this resolution will help to expand these programs by highlighting the need for early intervention services and appropriately trained teachers to teach, assist, and respond to special needs students.

REMEMBERING LOBSANG
LHALUNGPA

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, Lobsang Lhalungpa was born on the other side of the world from New Mexico, but we considered him one of our own.

When he died in April, the state lost, as one resident put it, a "teacher with a capital T." For decades, Lhalungpa was a great promoter of communication. As a translator and adviser for the Dalai Lama, he brought the ideas and the struggles of the Tibetan people to American audiences. As an exile and activist, he linked Tibetan communities from India and the United States to their troubled homeland and their brothers and sisters around the world. As a spiritual teacher in New Mexico, he introduced his neighbors to a history and a way of life that continues to provide comfort to those who knew him.

Lhalungpa's family had developed a habit of being one step ahead of disaster. In 1910, his father recommended to the Dalai Lama that he leave Lhasa immediately after the Manchu General Chao Erh Feng decided to attack. The move may have saved the Lama's life, and it sealed his relationship with Lhalungpa's family. In 1947, Lhalungpa left Tibet for India, two years before China began its invasion. His escape allowed him to help establish the Tibetan government in exile and rally Tibetans in India around the cause of their homeland.

Lhalungpa's life was cut short by a traffic accident, but he had already lived 84 years filled with action, reflection and joy. Friends claim that Lhalungpa would not want us to feel sorrow at his passing. As a teacher, he told his students that life is fleeting and death comes when we least expect it. Our responsibility is not to mourn death but to celebrate life.

I rise today to celebrate the life of Lobsang Lhalungpa. Buddhism teaches that those who

don't find teachers in this life will live in vain. Those who had the privilege to be taught by Lhalungpa have lived lives more linked to their communities and more touched by the divine. He lives on in their hearts and in the memory of a grateful community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, I missed 3 recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: H.R. 6081, The Heroes Earnings Assistance & Relief Tax Act of 2008, "yes"; H.R. 6074, Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act of 2008, "yes"; and H. Res. 1144, Expressing support for designation of a "Frank Sinatra Day" on May 13, 2008, in honor of the dedication of the Frank Sinatra commemorative stamp, "yes."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING WAR-
RANT OFFICER ROBERT D. GA-
BRIEL FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE
UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Warrant Officer Robert D. Gabriel served in the United States Army; and

Whereas, he fought with an engaged infantry unit in the Republic of Vietnam; and

Whereas, Warrant Officer Robert D. Gabriel displayed personal bravery and devotion to duty as a soldier in the United States Army; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Warrant Officer Robert D. Gabriel for his contributions to his community and country.

A TRIBUTE TO EVANGELIST
BETTY J. WRIGHT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Evangelist Betty J. Wright, founder of "Apple of His Eye" Ministries and outreach ministry for those who understand a personal walk with God.

A native of Augusta, Georgia, Evangelist Wright was raised in Brooklyn, New York. She is a graduate of the High School of Fashion and is an alumna of the Fashion Institute of Technology of (F.I.T.). Thereafter, Evangelist Wright matriculated at O.M. Kelly Bible Religious Institute, where she earned her Bachelor of Theology and a Master of Religious Education.

Evangelist Wright is the wife of Elder Timothy Wright, mother of five sons—Danny,

Donny, David, Derrick and Dwayne—mother-in-law to four daughters-in-law, and the grandmother to many grandchildren.

In August 1990, Evangelist Wright's husband, Elder Timothy Wright, began his pastoral duties and founded the Grace Tabernacle Christian Cerner COGIC. Her recent elevation to the office of Co-Pastor resulted from her tireless support of the Grace Tabernacle ministry. In the years prior, Evangelist Wright was a member of Washington Temple COGIC from 1958 to 1990 under the leadership of the late Bishop F.D. Washington.

In closing, Evangelist Wright has proven to be a great example to many young people that she has encountered.

CONGRATULATING JAMES J. HAGGERTY, ESQ., 2008 RECIPIENT OF THE GOVERNOR ROBERT P. CASEY MEDAL FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to James J. Haggerty, Esq., recipient of the 2008 Governor Robert P. Casey Medal for a Lifetime of Service presented by the Neighborhood Housing Services of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania.

For more than a quarter of a century, the NHS has faithfully served the greater northeastern Pennsylvania community by empowering individuals and families through home ownership, education and promotion, property rehabilitation and affordable lending. This work has resulted in thousands of educated homebuyers, over a hundred improved properties, and millions of dollars worth of investment into local neighborhoods.

NHS, as part of a national network of more than 230 community-based nonprofit organizations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, has created home ownership for lower income families, produced and managed affordable, high-quality rental properties, stemmed the tide of foreclosures that threaten to destabilize neighborhoods and local economies and helped to revitalize and strengthen neighborhoods.

Named as a tribute to the late Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey, this award is intended to acknowledge the efforts of individuals who have faithfully invested their time and talents to the betterment of the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania and, equally as importantly, to allow others to learn from their service.

As a former Secretary of State for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, James J. Haggerty has a dedication to public service that is the hallmark of his professional life.

Attorney Haggerty served as general counsel to his friend, Governor Robert P. Casey and steadfastly advanced their shared values for the betterment of the common good in the civic arena.

He is a highly accomplished businessman, community leader and man of the law, though topping the list of his many accomplishments is that of devoted family man. As a father of

seven and the grandfather of 12, his unique pride of heritage, ethic of service and spirited wit has been deeply instilled in his family and will no doubt continue to have a positive impact on the region for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Attorney Haggerty on this auspicious occasion. His example and commitment to service is an inspiration to all whose lives he has touched.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MS. NANCY SWANBORG

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Ms. Nancy Swanborg, long-time Director of the Women's Resource Center and Schoolcraft College employee, upon her retirement from an exemplary nineteen-year career in serving the public.

Ms. Swanborg obtained the position of Director of the Women's Resource Center in the summer of 1989. Through her vital leadership, Nancy has been recognized locally and nationally for her successful measures to remove the educational, financial, and legal barriers that face women. Nancy's vision to help women has inspired her to create a unique program called "From Chocolate Chips to Micro Chips to Blue Chips", which is a college program assisting women to transition from home to the work force. Ms. Swanborg's work at the college is not limited to the Women's Resource Center. Nancy is currently working on writing a grant for the school; is instrumental in the implementation of a scholarship to assist women; and is a trustee for various Schoolcraft College Foundation Scholarships.

Nancy exerts energy well beyond her responsibilities with the Women's Resource Center and Schoolcraft College. Ms. Swanborg is extremely involved in the community through activities including, Threads of Power, Detroit Race for the Cure, and organized several campus-wide memorial services. Nancy is also a loving and devoted mother of two and grandmother of four.

Madam Speaker, for nearly twenty years Ms. Nancy Swanborg has been a devoted community leader in Livonia, Michigan. As Ms. Swanborg turns over the reigns of Director of the Women's Resource Center on May 6, 2008, she leaves a community who will surely miss her strength, commitment, and movement to empower women. Ms. Swanborg's accomplishments in her personal and professional life have ensured the greatness and stability of the Women's Resource Center for years to come. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Nancy Swanborg upon her retirement and recognizing her many years of loyal service to the community and our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S. ARMY SGT. JOSEPH A. FORD

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, on May 10, 2008, the Hoosier state lost another of its brave young men. Army SGT Joseph A. Ford died from injuries sustained when his vehicle rolled over in Al Asad, Iraq. SFT Ford was from Knox, Indiana, but had been living in New Albany with his wife, Karen Christina Grimm Ford. SGT Ford deployed to Iraq with more than 3,000 members of the Indiana National Guard's 76th Infantry Battalion Combat Team.

SGT Ford was known as an intellectual among his peers and comrades. He was drawn to military and ancient history, often carrying a book along with him. While in high school, Ford was a member of the fencing club. He choreographed the sword fight scenes in his school's production of "The Three Musketeers."

SGT Joseph A. Ford is an American hero. His sacrifice for our Nation, and our State, deserves our deepest respect and most heartfelt thanks. I, along with the towns of Knox and New Albany, mourn the loss of Joseph. His mends and family are in my prayers.

HONORING JOHN F. BURNES FOR HIS SERVICE TO DUKE UNIVERSITY AND THE CITY OF DURHAM

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of John F. Burness, Senior Vice President for Public Affairs and Government Relations at Duke University. Mr. Burness will retire on June 30th after nearly 40 years of service in higher education. His has been a distinguished career that helped revolutionize the way universities handle communications and public affairs. In Durham, North Carolina, he has transformed the relationship between the town and the university in a way that few other institutions have been able to replicate.

After graduating from Franklin and Marshall College, where he currently serves as a trustee, John began his career in 1970 as Assistant to the President at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, rising through the ranks to become Deputy to the President for University Affairs and Secretary of the Stony Brook Council. From SUNY, he moved to the University of Illinois, where he was first Director of Public Affairs and then promoted to the newly created position of Associate Chancellor for Public Affairs. Following his time at Illinois, he returned to New York to assume the role of Vice President for University Relations at Cornell University. Regarded as a national expert in university public affairs, he became the founding chair of the Association of American Universities' Public Affairs Committee, as well as a founding member of the steering committee of The Science Coalition, a consortium of universities, scientific societies, and business groups that takes a grassroots approach